

Falsos Amigos...

by Ben Curtis and Marina Diez - www.notesinspanish.com

Table of Contents

<i>1. Confusing Pairs</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>2. When Gender Changes Meaning</i>	<i>5</i>

Notes in Spanish - Falsos Amigos

1. Confusing Pairs

In the table below we've paired up words that can cause big confusion when translated between English and Spanish. For example, *Actualmente* doesn't mean "Actually", it means "Currently". So how do you say "Actually"? We give you the answer in the opposite column: *de hecho*. Enjoy the list!

SPANISH	MEANING	ENGLISH	MEANING
Realizar	To carry out	To Realize	Darse cuenta
Cualidad (f.)	A characteristic of a person or thing (e.g. generosity)	Quality (as in measure of worth)	Calidad (f.)
Soportar	To put up with, tolerate	To support	Apoyar
Memoria (f.)	The memory (as in brain's capacity to remember)	A Memory (e.g. of an event)	Recuerdo (m.)
Atender	To pay attention, to take care of someone or something	To Attend (a meeting)	Asistir
Actualmente	Currently	Actually	De hecho
Estar embarazada	To be pregnant	To be embarrassed	Tener vergüenza
Éxito (m.)	success	Exit	Salida (f.)

Sensible	Sensitive	Sensible	Sensato
Recordar	To remember	Record (verb)	Grabar
Introducir	To insert, introduce (thing)	To introduce (person)	Presentar
Carpeta (f.)	Folder	Carpet	Alfombra (f.)
Ganga (f.)	Bargain	Gang	Pandilla (f.), grupo de personas
Lectura (f.)	Reading	Lecture	Conferencia (f.), charla (f.)
Ropa (f.)	Clothing	Rope	Cuerda (f.), sogá (f.)
Once	Eleven	Once	Una vez
Demostrar	To show	To Demonstrate	Manifestarse
Vaso (m.)	Glass	Vase	Jarrón (m.), florero (m.)
Balón (m.)	Ball	Balloon	Globo (m.)
Firma (f.)	Signature	Firm (company)	Empresa (f.)
Importe (m.)	Amount, sum	Import (noun)	Importación (f.)
Carta (f.)	Letter	Card (e.g. Birthday)	Tarjeta (f.)
Librería (f.)	Bookshop or bookcase	Library	Biblioteca (f.)
Compleción (f.)	Build (e.g. medium build)	Complexion	Tez (f.) o Cutis (m.)
Honesto	Modest, virtuous	Honest	Sincero

Nudo (m.)	Knot	Nude	Desnudo (m.)
Apología	Defence or praise for something or someone in a speech or in a piece of writing	Apology	Disculpa
Sanidad	Health system	Sanity	Juicio (m.) o cordura (f.)
Preservativos (m.)	Condoms	Preservatives	Conservantes (m.)
Rape (m.)	Monkfish	To Rape	Violar
Decepción (f.)	Disappointment	Deception	Engaño
Condescender	To give in	Condescending	Presumido
Encumbrar	To praise	Encumber	Cargar, agobiar
Compromiso (m.)	A promise	Compromise	Llegar a un acuerdo
Constipado	To have a cold	Constipated	Estreñido

2. When Gender Changes Meaning

Some words in Spanish change meaning completely depending on whether they are masculine or feminine. For example: *Un marco* is a frame, as in picture frame, but *una marca* is a brand or trademark! Here's a big list of more gender-changing words:

MASCULINO	MEANING	FEMENINO	MEANING
Arco	Arch	Arca	Chest
Bolso	Purse, handbag	Bolsa	Shopping bag
Brazo	Arm	Braza	Breast stroke
Caballo	Horse	Caballa	Mackerel
Chorro	Jet, stream	Chorra	Luck
El frente	Front (in a war/weather term)	La frente	Forehead
Jaleo	Noise, racket	Jalea	Jelly
Marco	Frame	Marca	Trademark
Paleta	Hick, country bumkin	Paleta	Trowel
Palo	Stick	Pala	Spade
Pasto	Pasture	Pasta	Money or Pasta

Plato	Plate	Plata	Silver / Money
Plazo	Installment	Plaza	Square
Rodillo	Rolling pin	Rodilla	Knee
Seto	Hedge	Seta	Fungus
Vacuno	Bovine	Vacuna	Vaccine

We hope you enjoyed this special report! Our thanks go to Katie Goldstein for helping us to compile it.

Un saludo,

Ben y Marina - Madrid

www.notesinspanish.com